

## CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. Madam President, I now send a cloture motion to the desk with respect to the nomination of Judge Hamilton.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

## CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of David F. Hamilton, of Indiana, to be a United States Circuit Judge for the 7th Circuit.

Harry Reid, Herb Kohl, Sheldon Whitehouse, Richard J. Durbin, Benjamin L. Cardin, Patty Murray, Mark Begich, Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Mark R. Warner, Russell D. Feingold, Al Franken, Roland W. Burris, Dianne Feinstein, Patrick J. Leahy, Barbara Boxer, Charles E. Schumer, Edward E. Kaufman.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the cloture vote occur upon disposition of H.R. 3082; further, that prior to the cloture vote on the nomination, there be 60 minutes of debate, with the time equally divided and controlled between the chair and ranking member of the Judiciary Committee; and that the mandatory quorum be waived; provided further that the vote not occur prior to 2:15 p.m., Tuesday, November 17; and that the Senate now resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

## LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now resume legislative session.

## MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Madam President, we are always glad to see the yellow file at nighttime.

I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

## EMPOWERING THE U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I was pleased to join with Senators DODD, CARDIN, BOND, KERRY, LUGAR, and many others in passing a resolution on the need to empower and strengthen the U.S. Agency for International Development.

The resolution calls for three important steps—that a USAID Administrator be named without delay, that such Administrator be included in key national security deliberations, and that USAID's staffing and expertise be significantly increased.

Development assistance is part of any comprehensive American approach in foreign policy, whether it responds to regional conflicts, terrorist threats, weapons proliferation, disease pandemics, or persistent widespread poverty. Assistance programs not only provide help to those most in need but also are a symbol of American values.

Our own security depends on the stability of far-flung places beyond our borders. And America's generosity and ability to help other countries is becoming more important to the effectiveness of our foreign policy.

In the United States, the responsibility for development falls largely to the U.S. Agency for International Development.

USAID was founded by the Kennedy administration in 1961, becoming the first U.S. foreign assistance organization with the primary goal of long term economic and social development efforts overseas.

During its first decade, it had more than 5,000 Foreign Service officers serving all over the world, often in the most difficult of conditions.

Today—at a time when the United States is engaged in two wars and needs development expertise more than ever—USAID operates with just 1,000 Foreign Service officers. USAID's managed program budget in real dollars has dropped by more than 40 percent since the mid-1980s. And the Agency still does not have an Administrator.

From the early 1960s until 1992, the Office of Management and Budget enforced a rule mandating that all foreign aid programs and spending must go through USAID, except when USAID chose to contract with other Federal agencies. Today more than half of all foreign assistance programs are administered by Federal agencies other than USAID, and funding for such programs is spread across more than 20 U.S. Government agencies.

This decline in personnel, budgets and coordinating leadership has diminished the capacity of USAID and the U.S. Government to provide development assistance and implement foreign assistance programs.

Quite simply, as the United States works to win hearts and minds around the world, our efforts have been diminished by an underfunded and understaffed lead development agency. USAID has been shortchanged—and America's efforts abroad have suffered as a result.

Secretaries Clinton and Gates both recognize the need to reverse this trend.

During her first month as Secretary of State, Clinton told USAID employees, "I believe in development, and I believe with all my heart that it truly is an equal partner, along with defense and diplomacy, in the furtherance of America's national security."

Secretary of Defense Gates has made a similar case, stating "The problem is that the civil side of our government—the Foreign Service and foreign-policy

side, including our aid for international development—[has] been systematically starved of resources for a quarter of a century or more . . . We have not provided the resources necessary, first of all, for our diplomacy around the world; and second, for communicating to the rest of the world what we are about and who we are as a people."

Military and civilian experts agree that the wars in Iran and Afghanistan will only succeed in the long term with a sustained and strategic development program to compliment military efforts. We owe it to the brave men and women serving in those nations to get this piece of our foreign policy right and to so without delay.

That is why earlier this year I introduced the Increasing America's Global Development Capacity Act, which calls for a tripling of USAID's Foreign Service personnel over the next 3 years. The bill seeks to address the considerable personnel loss that USAID has experienced over the course of the last two decades. I have also worked with Senator LEAHY to help appropriate additional funds for USAID.

And that is why I was pleased to support Senator DODD's resolution expressing the Senate's view that we must rebuild USAID, starting with the urgent naming of an empowered Administrator, inclusion of that designee in top-level national security deliberations, and continued long-term investment in USAID staffing and funding. I thank the Senate for adopting this important resolution yesterday.

## VETERANS DAY

Mr. BURRIS. Madam President, on November 11, 1921, exactly 2 years after the armistice that ended the First World War, a brave soldier was laid to rest at Arlington National Cemetery.

His grave was marked, not with a name, but with the inscription "Here rests in honored glory an American soldier, known but to God."

Like all of his brothers in arms, this soldier left his home and his family to defend his nation in an hour of need.

Perhaps he was a factory worker or a farmer or a businessman.

Perhaps he had a wife and children; perhaps not.

But whoever he was in civilian life, he heard the call—as many have done before and since—and he took up arms in defense of our liberty.

He laid down his life that others might live free.

He gave what Lincoln called "the last full measure of devotion."

And today, although his name has been lost to the ages, the power of his sacrifice endures.

It is a sacrifice that every American veteran has been prepared to make, if duty should require it.

As we observe Veterans Day this November 11, let us express our thanks and appreciation for those brave veterans who are still with us.

And, in doing so, let us remember this man who was brought to his rest exactly 88 years ago.

He reminds us of the dear price of freedom—a price which all veterans must be ready to pay.

These men and women put their lives on the line to defend the United States.

We must recognize and honor the enormity of such patriotic devotion.

So let us celebrate the heroes who walk among us—our grandparents, our parents, and our children. Our friends and our neighbors.

Let us honor their sacrifice. Let us express our support, our friendship, and our gratitude for the service they have rendered to their country and all its citizens.

Their stories are woven into the story of this Nation.

These men and women have become a part of something greater than themselves—greater than all of us.

More than two centuries ago, when a tyrant from across the ocean refused to grant basic freedoms to his subjects, a brave few decided to claim it for themselves and for their countrymen.

When Europe was consumed by violence and genocide—when a dictator seemed poised to march across an entire continent—a generation of Americans rose to this threat and joined with our allies to save the world from oppression.

From the hallowed fields of Saratoga and Gettysburg, to the muddy trenches of France, to the rugged Korean peninsula—

From the humid jungles of Vietnam, to the arid sands of Afghanistan, and Iraq, and every theater of combat in between—America's veterans are the valiant protectors of American liberty.

We must never forget our servicemen and women—those who fought bravely and returned home, and those who perished on the field of battle.

Our freedom is their legacy.

And, just as we ask them to make great sacrifices for our Nation, so this country owes them a deep debt of gratitude.

We must give our veterans nothing but the very best.

As a member of the Veterans Affairs and Armed Services Committees, I will work with my colleagues to make sure we keep our promises to those who serve.

This means increasing educational benefits through programs like the Post-9/11 G.I. bill.

It means stepping up impact aid support to military communities.

And it means providing high quality healthcare to every single soldier, sailor, airman, and marine who puts on a uniform.

I will not stand for anything but the best. And I urge my colleagues to join me in renewing this commitment.

These men and women answered the call in America's hour of need.

And now America must be ready to answer in their hour of need.

Colleagues, let us see this Veterans Day as a time to remember—a time to

celebrate the heroes of all wars, and to honor their service and sacrifice.

But let us also see this Veterans Day as a challenge for the future.

Let us see it as a time to keep our promises, and to fight for those who have fought for us.

Eighty-eight years ago, a brave soldier was laid to rest at Arlington National Cemetery under the inscription "Here rests in honored glory an American soldier, known but to God."

And although we call him the Unknown Soldier, in reality he is anything but unknown.

He is our countryman—our brother—our protector.

He is every American soldier, past and present.

His sacrifice lives in our freedom. His service is carried on by all those who wear the American flag into combat, and all who perish under its standard.

My friends, this Veterans Day is a time for remembrance and celebration.

It is a time for American heroes.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I rise today to take advantage of a unique opportunity to recognize and thank those who hold the distinguished title of "veteran." It is because of their service, their commitment, and their sacrifice, that our country is what it is today, a great nation which stands for freedom and which shines as a beacon of hope and opportunity to the rest of the world.

Ninety-one years ago today, on the 11th hour, of the 11th day, of the 11th month of 1918, the hostilities of World War I between the Allied nations and Germany, ceased. While the commemoration of this day was originally known as Armistice Day, later being renamed as "Veterans Day," the purpose and intent has never changed. President Woodrow Wilson, in 1919, expressed his thoughts of this day, and they ring as true today as they did nine decades ago:

To us in America, the reflections of Armistice Day will be filled with solemn pride in the heroism of those who died in the country's service and with gratitude for the victory, both because of the thing from which it has freed us and because of the opportunity it has given America to show her sympathy with peace and justice in the councils of the nations.

In Alaska we have the distinct pleasure and honor of having the largest per capita percentage of veterans of any State in the Union. We call them our neighbors, our coworkers, and our friends. Our communities benefit from the experience and expertise which they have brought home with them from their time in the service of our Nation. Today, while they may wear different clothing in place of a uniform, their service continues as they provide leadership and skill within the State of Alaska.

As we reflect on the service of heroes who have served our country in conflicts past such as World War I, World War II, Korea, Vietnam, the Persian Gulf war and others, we would be remiss if didn't also pause to honor the

dedication of the men and women who are putting their lives on the line today to protect our freedom. This includes not only those serving in Southwest Asia but also those still in Kosovo, those still standing watch of the Korean demilitarized zone, and those serving and sacrificing in countless other countries and regions around the world.

Today, we also mourn. We mourn those veterans who made the ultimate sacrifice in the defense of freedom. This year, Alaska lost several members of our military community in the Afghanistan and Iraq conflicts. I extend my heartfelt sympathy to the families of our fallen service members.

Finally, I would like to recognize a group who often isn't honored enough: the families and loved ones of America's veterans. These are the folks who have had to see their loved ones sent away to war zones and who worried about their well being every second, of every minute, of every day until they returned. These are the folks who have had to singlehandedly manage the household and deal with the car, the washing machine, or the heater invariably breaking the second that their spouse departed. These are the folks who firsthand deal with the invisible scars and injuries of war, such as PTSD, when their loved one comes home. The family members of our veterans are heroes who bravely serve our Nation and rightfully deserve our recognition.

I am honored to have the opportunity to stand among my colleagues here on the Senate floor and proudly state that while we know that words cannot express the gratitude that a grateful nation has for its veterans, with a common voice we want to say thank you.

#### HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO THE MARINE CORPS

Mr. BURRIS. Mr. President, 234 years ago today, a group of American patriots gathered to found a new branch of the Armed Forces.

They organized and trained a robust fighting force that has distinguished itself time and again in the years since that day.

In 1805, these brave warriors were ordered into battle by President Jefferson. They fought for safe passage of American ships and American citizens, defending our fledgling nation against a grave new threat.

In fact, they carried this fight halfway around the world to the city of Derne, on the shores of Tripoli.

And 40 years later, at the height of the Mexican-American War, this fighting force again proved their bravery.

They charged enemy positions at Chapultepec Castle, eventually capturing the enemy capital, and leading U.S. forces into the very halls of Montezuma.

In these defining moments, from the halls of Montezuma to the shores of Tripoli, the legend of the United States Marine Corps was born.